

Application No. 09/901,414

INXT 1010-1

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed 18 March 2004, the Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.84 because they do not include all reference numbers. The Examiner objected to the Abstract because it is too long. Claims 1-48 are pending. Claims 1, 12, 13, 27, 28, 36, 37, 44 and 44 are objected to for informalities. Claims 1-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Applicant has amended claims 1, 12, 13, 27, 28, 36, 37, 44 and 45, without loss of scope. Claims 1-48 remain pending.

Objection to Drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5)

Figure 6 is objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5) because it does not include the reference character "111" used throughout pages 18 and 19.

Figure 16 is objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5) because it does not include the reference character "354."

Figures 6 and 16 have been amended herein. Attached are replacement sheets with the reference numerals added, and annotated sheets showing the changes in red.

Objection to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract as too long. Applicant has presented a new Abstract, and requests reconsideration in view of the amendment.

Objection to Claims 1, 12, 13, 27, 28, 36, 37, 44 and 45 for Informalities

Claims are objected to for informalities. The claims have been amended above as follows as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 1, 44 and 45 have been amended to change the word "perpendicular" to -- perpendicular --.

Claims 1, 44 and 45 have been amended to change the phrase "in at least one on the first or second," to -- in at least one of the first or second --.

Claims 12, 13, 27, 28, 36 and 37 have been amended to change the phrase "to a another node" to -- to another node --.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the objection to claims 1, 12, 13, 27, 28, 36, 37, 44 and 45 as amended is respectfully requested.

Application No. 09/901,414

INXT 1010-1

Rejection of Claims 1-48 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lamping et al., U.S. patent 5,619,632. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

Claim 1 recites at least the following limitations not found in Lamping, et. al:

... a region in which bounded node features have nearest node spacings along an axis perpendicular on the display to the horizon, that are in general perceptibly greater than in a region enclosed by the first convex hull but outside the second convex hull;

... lower level node features that share a parent node feature having centers of area positioned on the display in order approximately along a line generally parallel with the horizon with sufficiently similar spacings along the axis perpendicular to the horizon from the region around the parent node feature and with sufficiently similar spacings in a dimension generally parallel to said horizon from adjacent node features along the line that the lower level node features sharing the parent node feature are perceptible as a group of related node features;

First, it is important for this claim to identify the "horizon" of the allegedly anticipating reference. The Examiner takes the position that an unidentified edge of the display area, as discussed at column 17, lines 36-50, corresponds with the "horizon" in the display of Lamping et. al. (Office Action, page 4, lines 10-13 of para. 6.) The present application on the other hand defines "half-plane" at page 15, line paragraph [0091], as follows:

A "half-plane" is defined by a line in two-dimensional plane that separates the plane in two pieces; each one of this pieces is termed a half-plane. The line separating the two "half-planes" is termed the "horizon" in the half-plane model of hyperbolic space.

Accordingly, the Examiner's characterization of the edge of the display area as the horizon is not correct.

The Examiner takes the position that the discussion at column 2, lines 55-67 in Lamping et al. teaches the region of claim 1 with nodes with nearest node spacings arranged along an

Application No. 09/901,414

INXT 1010-1

“axis perpendicular on the display to the horizon.” The cited passage in Lamping et al. does not mention how the nodes nearest node spacings are arranged at all. In Lamping et al., rather than arranging the nodes along the “axis perpendicular on the display to the horizon,” as recited in claim 1, the nodes are arranged along an arc, and the relationship of the arc to edge of the display area, that the Examiner has identified as the horizon, is not described. The arcs taught in Lamping et al. are all curved lines, arranged with respect to the location of the parent node, and none of the arcs shown in Lamping et al. appears to be perpendicular to an edge of the display area, nor to a “horizon” as defined in the present application. Thus, Lamping et al. does not teach the limitation “a region in which bounded node features have nearest node spacings along an axis perpendicular on the display to the horizon...” as quoted above.

The Examiner takes the position that the discussion at column 3, lines 19-26 in Lamping et al. teaches the arrangement of lower level node features on peripheral branches of the node-link structure, as quoted above, “in order approximately along a line generally parallel with the horizon with sufficiently similar spacings along the axis perpendicular to the horizon from the region around the parent node feature and with sufficiently similar spacings in a dimension generally parallel to said horizon...” The discussion at column 3, lines 19-26, describes the positioning of lower level node features along an arc. It does not describe the arc, as required by claim 1, as a “line generally parallel with the horizon.” As mentioned above, in Lamping et al., the arcs described are curved lines, and their relationship to the edge of the display that the Examiner has identified as the horizon, is not described.

Because Lamping et al. does not include at least the limitations outlined above, it does not anticipate claim 1. Claims 2-19 all depend from claim 1, and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Further, with regard to claims 2 and 3, the Examiner takes the position that the horizon corresponds with one of the vertical edges (claim 2) or horizontal edges (claim 3) of the display region shown in Figs. 14 and 15 of Lamping et al. However, assuming for argument that one of the vertical line or horizontal line is the “horizon” of the claim, there is clearly no “lower level node features that share a parent node feature having centers of area positioned on the display in order approximately along a line generally parallel with the horizon...” as required in claim 1. Rather, Figs. 14 and 15 illustrate that the lower level node features in Lamping et al. are arranged in arcs, and that none of the arcs are perpendicular to the vertical or horizontal edges of the display area.

Application No. 09/901,414

INXT 1010-1

With regard to claim 5, the Examiner takes the position that Lamping et al. teaches applying the “half plane model with compression” as stated in the claim. The Examiner characterizes “the children nodes of a particular parent node are linked to the parent node on the display either in the top half or the bottom half of the hyperbolic plane” as application of the half plane model. The fact that the display can be referred to as having two halves does not make the layout of Lamping et al. into a system “using a half-plane model,” as stated in the claim. The Examiner’s interpretation of the “half-plane model” is not consistent with the present application and reconsideration is requested.

Claims 6-19 all depend from claim 5, and present further distinguishing features relevant to the use of the half plane model as recited in claim 5.

With regard to independent claims 20 and 29, the Examiner has interpreted the limitation “using a half-plane model” as reading on the fact that the display in Lamping et al. can be considered to have two halves. This interpretation is clearly inconsistent with the specification of the present application, and reconsideration is requested. The present application states in no uncertain terms that it “adapts the hyperbolic tree browser methods [such as taught by Lamping et al.] to the half-plane model of hyperbolic geometry.” See, specification, at paragraph [0007] on page 2. Applying the half-plane model includes for example, defining a horizon, and “horizon” is defined as discussed above in the specification. There is no similar teaching in Lamping et al. See, paragraphs [0142] to [0144] of the specification for discussion of the application of the half-plane model, as compared to the old hyperbolic tree of Lamping et al.

Claims 21-28 depend from claim 20, and claims 30-43 depend from claim 29, and such claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims. Further, such claims recite unique features not taught by Lamping et al.

Independent claims 44 and 45 include limitations like those discussed above with respect to claim 1, and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Independent claim 46 includes the limitation of obtaining layout data according to the half-plane model, as discussed above with reference to claims 20 and 29. Accordingly, claim 46 distinguishes over Lamping et al. for at least the same reasons as claims 20 and 29, and due to the unique combination recited. Claims 47-48 depend from claim 46, and are allowable for that reason. Further, Lamping et al. does not teach the combinations recited in such claims.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-48 as anticipated by Lamping et al. is respectfully requested.

Application No. 09/901,414

INXT 1010-1

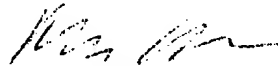
CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee determined to be due in connection with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0869 (INXT 1010-1).

Respectfully submitted,

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